Extradition Treaty with Indonesia

1785. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have concluded an extradition treaty with Indonesia during Prime Minister's recent visit to Indonesia; and

(b) the names of countries with whom we have concluded extradition treaty so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No.

(b) India has extradition treaties with Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Hong Kong, Nepal, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United State of America and Uzbekistan.

Transit facilities for Indians

1786. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh has decided to extend to India in port transit facilities on a priority basis;

(b) if so, the extent to which Government would be benefited by such transit facilities;

(c) whether the Government of Bangladesh have agreed to extend more facilities to India on reciprocal basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh provided for grant of transit by waterways, roadways and railways. However, at present only transit through inland waterways is being provided by Bangladesh.

(b) Access to Chittagong port would give the North Eastern States, especially Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya, greater connectivity with the rest of India and the world.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-US Technology Cooperation

1787. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-US technology cooperation deal, including high-tech space launch equipment, civilian nuclear energy and missile defence equipment and technology, has been under negotiations;

(b) if so, the agreement or Memorandum of Understanding, if any, has been signed; and

(c) what action has been and is being taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) India and the United States are engaged in an ongoing dialogue on expanding bilateral cooperation in a number of areas in pursuit of the vision articulated by the Prime Minister and President Bush to qualitatively transform the India-U.S. relations. These areas include civilian space, civilian nucleare energy, high tecnology and missile defecne. Besides having discussions at the political level, the two sides have also established a bilateral High Technology Coopeation Group that held its second meeting in New Delhi on November 20, 2003. This is the first such group that the United States has set up with any country. Although no Memorandum of Understanding has been signed so far, these discussions have led to a considerable progress in deepening mutual understanding on these issues.

American help to India to fight against insurgency

1788. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States has offered material assistance to India to fight insurgency in difficult terrain in Kashmir and North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?